

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6769

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 05364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLAB, AU

SUBJ: ILO 1978 CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 127537

1. LABATT'S TALKS WITH AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AND TRADE UNION OFFICIALS FOLLOWING RETURN FROM LEAVE AND COPENHAGEN LABATT CONFERENCE INDICATE NO BASIC CHANGES IN AUSTRIAN VIEWS STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF MOST USG POSITIONS ON ILO MATTERS AND IN AUSTRIANS' DESIRE THAT UNITED STATES REJOIN ORGANIZATION. VIEWS CONCERNING PROSPECTS FOR ILO IN ABSENCE OF U.S. PARTICIPATION REMAIN ALMOST AS PESSIMISTIC AS STATED BY SOCIAL (LABOR) MINISTER WEISSENBERG TO AMBASSADOR LAST OCTOBER (77 VIENNA 9136) ALTHOUGH FOR TIME BEING AUSTRIANS BELIEVE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES SOMEWHAT SOBERED BY U.S. WITHDRAWAL WHILE SOVIETS, FOR OTHER REASONS, ARE TEMPORARILY ON THEIR GOOD BEHAVIOR.

2. SOME DIFFERENCES REMAIN ON STRUCTURAL ISSUE, HOWEVER, WITH AUSTRIANS CONTINUING TO BELIEVE 1) THAT SOME CONCESSIONS ON STRUCTURE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES ON
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PROCEDURAL ISSUE, AND 2) THAT SUCH CONCESSIONS NEED NOT DESTROY UTILITY OF GOVERNING BODY IF FORMULA FOR ADMITTING FEW OF LARGER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN STILL BE FOUND. ALSO, MFA/IO DIRECTOR RUDOFISKY EVINced LITTLE CONCERN OVER GOVERNMENT WORKING PARTY POSITION PAPER THAT PROVIDES FOR FOUR REGIONS BUT EXPLICITLY DIVIDES EUROPEAN GB MEMBERSHIP INTO WESTERN AND COMMUNIST GROUPS. RUDOFISKY SAID THIS WAS

DE FACTO SITUATION NOW AND ALREADY RECOGNIZED DE JURE IN OTHER UN CONTEXTS. LABATT REPLIED THAT ILO'S UNIQUE TRIPARTITE NATURE, WITH ITS INDEPENDENT WORKER AND EMPLOYEE GROUPS, AND FACT ILO ANTIDATED UN, SET SITUATION IN ILO QUITE APART FROM THAT IN UN AND OTHER, UN-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS; FURTHERMORE, MATTER WAS OF SUCH POLITICAL MOMENT THAT ITS ACCEPTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH STRUCTURAL CHANGE COULD NOT BUT HAVE STRONG NEGATIVE IMPACT ON U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD ILO. RUDOFISKY THEN BACKED OFF SOMEWHAT, NOTING THAT SINCE ALL OF AUSTRIA'S FIRST TEAM ON ILO MATTERS WAS ON THE SCENE IN GENEVA, VIEWS EXPRESSED FROM THERE WOULD UNDERSTANDABLY REFLECT SUCH CONSIDERATIONS AND HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE ON GOA POSITIONS.

3. AUSTRIANS AT ILO INCLUDE AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION PRESIDENT ANTON BENYA, HERIBERT MAIER, MP KARL WEDENIG IN WORKER GROUP; SOCIAL MINISTER DR. GERHARD WEISSENBERG, SEKTIONSCHEF DR. OSWIN MARTINEK, SEKTIONSRAT DR. HEINZ MICHAEL MELAS IN GOVERNMENT GROUP; AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVES DR. ALFONS WUNSCHHEIM AND DR. MAX ARBESSER-RASTBURG IN EMPLOYER GROUP. AS AMERICAN OBSERVERS IN GENEVA AWARE, ALL OF THESE MEN ARE VERY FRIENDLY TOWARD U.S. AND EASILY APPROACHABLE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THEY WILL HELP ALL THEY POSSIBLY CAN TO PROMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT UNITED STATES CAN RETURN TO ILO. WOLF

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